

IDAHO NEWS RELEASE

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Spring Wheat and Barley Yields Down from Last Month

Based on conditions as of August 1, Idaho's spring wheat yield is forecast at 63.0 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from the July 1 forecast, and 2 bushels less than last year, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. Production of 29.0 million bushels from 460,000 harvested acres is down 13 percent from 2002. This is Idaho's lowest spring wheat production level since 1988. Winter wheat yield of 82.0 bushels per acre is unchanged from last month's estimate, and up 3 bushels from 2002. Producers are expected to harvest 720,000 acres with a total production of 59.0 million bushels, up 8 percent from last year. Barley yield, at 72.0 bushels per acre, is down 2 bushels from July 1, and down 4 bushels from last year. Total production of 53.3 million bushels is expected from 740,000 harvested acres, down 1 percent from 2002. Oat yield declined 5 bushels from last month to 65.0 bushels per acre. Production from 25,000 harvested acres is expected to total 1.63 million bushels, down 7 percent from last year. Sugarbeet production of 5.67 million tons from 207,000 harvested acres is up 11 percent from a year ago. Yield of 27.4 tons per acre increased from last year's 24.3 tons per acre. Dry bean production is expected to total 1.60 million cwt from 78,000 harvested acres, a decrease of 16 percent from last year. Yields are forecast at 2,050 pounds per acre (clean basis), unchanged from last year. Alfalfa hay production is estimated to be 4.80 million tons, a 4 percent decrease from last year's record high. The expected yield for alfalfa is 4.0 tons per harvested acre, unchanged from 2002. Other hay production is expected to total 540,000 tons, down 11 percent from last year. The yield for all other hay is estimated at 1.8 tons per acre, down 0.1 tons per acre from 2002. Apple production is estimated at 85 million pounds, up from 80 million pounds produced last year. Prune and plum production is estimated at 3,000 tons, up from the 2,000 tons produced in 2002. Hop producers are expected to harvest 3,429 acres with a yield of 1,490 pounds per acre and production of 5.11 million pounds.

Nationally, all wheat production is forecast at 2.29 billion bushels, down 1 percent from the July forecast, but up 42 percent from 2002. Winter wheat production is expected to total 1.71 billion bushels, down slightly from last month, but 50 percent above 2002. Spring wheat production is forecast at 492 million bushels, down 2 percent from last month, but 25 percent above 2002. Barley production is forecast at 281 million bushels, down 3 percent from the July forecast, but 24 percent above 2002. Oat production is forecast at 151 million bushels, 2 percent above the July 1 forecast and 27 percent above last year's 119 million bushels. Dry bean production is forecast at 24.3 million cwt, down 19 percent from last year, but 24 percent above two years ago. Sugarbeet production is expected to total 30.5 million tons, up 10 percent from 2002. Corn for grain is forecast at 10.1 billion bushels up 12 percent from last year and 6 percent above 2001. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 78.0 million tons, up 6 percent from 2002. Other hay production is expected to total 82.1 million tons, up 6 percent from last year. Prune and plum production in Idaho, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington is forecast at 14,700 tons, down 6 percent from last year and 31 percent below 2001. Apple production is expected to total 9.27 billion pounds, up 8 percent from last year, but 2 percent below 2001.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Call (208) 334-1507.